

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15768 141846Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5544

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BRUSSELS FOR DAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SENV, UK, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, TRADE SECRETARY SHOPE INFORMED HOUSE OF COMMONS ON OCT. 13 THAT DURING CONCORDE'S ENDURANCE FLYING PROGRAM OUT OF HEATHROW AIRPORT THIS PAST SUMMER, THE AIRCRAFT INFRINGED HEATHROW'S NOISE LIMITS 28 TIMES DURING 40 TAKE-OFFS. PRESENT NOISE STANDARD AT HEATHROW FOR SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT IS 110 PNDB AT MEASURING POINT THREE MILES FROM START OF TAKE-OFF ROLL. HIGHEST NOISE MEASURED FOR CONCORDE WAS 125 PNDB ON AUGUST 31; LOWEST NOISE WAS 103 PNDB ON SEPT. 3. DURING SAME PERIOD HIGHEST NOISE MEASURED FOR SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT WAS 123 PNDB FOR 707 ON TAKE-OFF.

2. SHORE POINTED OUT THAT SHARP VARIATION IN NOISE MEASUREMENTS DURING ENDURANCE FLYING PROGRAM WAS CAUSED

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15768 141846Z

BY NUMBER OF OPERATING FACTORS INCLUDING DIFFERENCES IN

TAKE-OFF PROCEDURES EMPLOYED ON DIFFERENT DAYS. LATER, DEPT. OF TRADE EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS CREWS WERE STILL COMPARATIVELY NEW TO THE AIRCRAFT AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A FAIRLY HIGH NUMBER OF INFRINGEMENTS WAS TO BE EXPECTED AND THAT AS PILOTS GAINED EXPERIENCE INFRINGEMENTS SHOULD DECREASE. POSSIBILITY OF REVISED TAKE-OFF PROCEDURES ALSO BEING STUDIED.

3. COMMENT: BEFORE ENDURANCE FLYING FROM HEATHROW COMMENCED, UKG HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO MAKING PUBLIC THE NOISE IMPACT OF CONCORDE IN VICINITY OF AIRPORT. SHORE'S STATEMENT WHICH WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO WHAT WE UNDERSTAND WAS A "PLANTED" QUESTION IS SEEN AS FULFILLMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE. TIMING OF QUESTION AND CLUMSY MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS HANDLED, HOWEVER, REMAINS UNEXPLAINED. WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT GREATER LONDON COUNCIL HAD SET UP ITS OWN NOISE MEASURING SYSTEM IN VICINITY OF HEATHROW TO MONITOR CONCORDE OPERATIONS BUT GLC CONTACT INFORMS US THAT ITS ANALYSIS STILL NOT COMPLETE AND MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED FOR SOME TIME DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN CROSS-ANALYZING NOISE LEVELS FROM DIFFERENT MEASURING POINTS. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD SEEM TO US, GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS IN GENERAL, THAT UKG MIGHT HAVE DRESSED UP ITS STATISTICS IN A WAY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS DAMAGING TO CONCORDE PROJECT. AS STATEMENT WAS PRESENTED, GENERAL REACTION IN UK HAS BEEN ONE OF SURPRISE AND DISMAY OVER NOISE RESULTS OF CONCORDE FLIGHTS.

4. BRITISH AIRWAYS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT PLANS TO START SELLING CONCORDE TICKETS OCTOBER 15 FOR COMMERCIAL SERVICES TO BAHRAIN WHICH COMMENCE ON JAN. 21. ONE-WAY FARE WILL BE ENGLISH POUNDS 338.10 WHICH IS FIRST-CLASS FARE PLUS A 15 PERCENT SURCHARGE. RICHARDSON

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